FBIS DAILY REPORT

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I 1.2:856-B-5 Pr.Ex 7.10: FBIS-LAT-78-68

APR 24 '78

FBIS-LAT-78-68
Friday
7 April 1978
Vol VI No 68

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

LATIN AMERICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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LAES COUNCIL SESSION CLOSES IN VENEZUELA

PA061610Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2347 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caraballenda, Venezuela, 5 Apr (EFE)--The Latin American Economic System [LAES] today concluded 3 days of deliberations principally aimed at developing political and practical support mechanisms for improving the operation of the action committees, its executive organs.

The fourth LAES council held in Caraballeda with representatives of 25 member countries attending adopted 10 specific decisions to establish guidelines for the work of its Permanent Secretariat, which is headquartered in Caracas. At the same time, it decided to begin studies toward setting up a financial mechanism whereby a fund would be created to finance preliminary studies of projects initiated by the action committees. It also decided during ministerial-level talks to call coordination and consultation meetings prior to international debates of interest to Latin America.

In addition the council came out in favor of accumulating know-how in conjunction with specific UN bodies (UNCTAD, the UN Development Program, the UN Industrial Development Organization) and representative member countries to analyze an inter-American technological network.

It expressed solidarity with Bolivia in view of the U.S. decision to dump substantial tin reserves on the market, thereby causing a drop in prices harmful to Bolivia's economy as well as that of other developing countries. It recommended that member states undertake resolute action to link the payment mechanisms of regional bodies such as the Latin Free Trade Association (LAFTA) with the Central American Common Market and CARICOM.

In regard to foreign trade matters, the highest LAES body decided to make studies to coordinate efforts, mechanisms and requirements.

The LAES council placed the Permanent Secretariat in charge of drafting a working paper on regional agricultural cooperation to be submitted to ministers during their next regular meeting. It also approved a draft budget and stated its concern over the continuation of restrictive clauses in U.S. trade laws.

During the course of the deliberations, 6 countries signed 14 documents to join 4 action committees and 6 other members announced their intention to participate in the program for Guatemala's reconstruction.

The Mexican delegation, headed by Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel, expressed broad support for LAES integration goals, stating its faith in Latin America's economic, political and social independence and describing LAES as the means for achieving it.

Gamani Corea, secretary general of the UNCTAD conference, outlined the progress in and outlook for Third World negotiations with developed countries and described LAES as the most advanced regional body in the Third World.

For his part, UNDP Director General Gabriel Valdes outlined Latin America's situation and raised the need for the region to adopt formulas to solve its problems without waiting for industrialized countries to solve their own.

On instructions from the council, Montevideo will be the site in November of a Latin American consultative meeting to set up positions in regard to the region's relations with the EEC.

The ministers expressed concern over the foreign debt of the developing countries ($350 billion), which they described as structural, and urged that efforts be made to balance trade in order to eliminate the causes of this growing indebtedness.

LATIN DELEGATES PROTEST LAW OF THE SEA ELECTION

PY062303Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2250 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Geneva, 6 Apr--Most of the Latin American delegations attending the Law of the Sea Conference here walked out of the meeting room today to protest the election of Hamilton Amerasinghe, from Thiland, as chairman of the meeting. Just as the new chairman was about to make his opening speech, the Latin American delegations left the room to show their disagreement and amazement at the election of a man who is not acknowledged by his own government as a delegate.

The Peruvian delegate, Arias Schreiber, indicated that Amerasinghe's election violates the principles of the UN Charter and that "the walkout by the Latin American bloc is intended only to demonstrate our protest; it is not a boycott of the conference.

BRIEFS

HEALTH MEETING OPENS--Santa Cruz, 5 Apr--The fifth health meeting of Andean countries ministers opened today in this city. The meeting, which is attended by Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, will last 3 days and will discuss subregional health programs. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1615 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY]

HARGUINDEGUY DISCUSSES CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION

PY060355Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0210 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Comodoro Rivadavia, 5 Apr--Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy said today that there are no "gray areas" [zonas grises] in the government and cautioned about the activities of sectors which "want the existence of 'gray areas' and conflicts" during a press conference which he held in Catela Olivia, 65 km south of Comodoro Rivadavia.

The minister discussed civilian participation in government, announcing that a number of guidelines "for civilian participation and activities at the city council level" will be released very soon. In this regard he said that "I have never said that there is civilian participation because there are civilian ministers. There may be no civilians--there are now two--or more civilians in the future, but that is up to the president, who has absolute freedom to choose the ministers to help him in the administration of the nation."

With regard to the current suspension of political activities, Harguindeguy pointed to the recently opened discussion between Rogelio Frigerio and Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz. He said that "if Rogelio Frigerio wishes to express his opinion he may do so as a citizen, because if he called upon his status as representative or member of a political party he would be violating a law."

Asked about the division of functions between the president and the military junta, the minister indicated that certain news media have expressed "concern over the need to establish exactly the responsibilities of the military junta, so as to leave everything else in the hands of the president. In that case," he emphasized, "it is necessary to clearly establish responsibilities."

He denied the existence of "gray areas." He reasserted that "there can be none because all levels have a perfectly clear idea of what they want." He concluded, however, by saying that "there may be sectors which want 'gray areas' and conflicts." Finally, he said that the law which will eliminate the exemptions from "all sorts of taxes or burdens" which the state enterprises have enjoyed so far will be approved very soon. At the end of the meeting Harguindeguy returned to the federal capital.

BORDER DELEGATIONS REACH PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT

PY061509Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1445 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr--The heads of the Argentine-Chilean joint commission No 1, Maj Gen Pablo Osvaldo Apella and Brig Gen Luis Joaquin Ramirez Pineda, today signed at the Chilean Embassy a preliminary agreement which will permit a more solid basis for undertaking the negotiations of commission No 2, which will meet in the near future regarding border differences in the southern area.

The Argentine and Chilean commissions last night reached the agreements necessary to establish measures of harmony and equality. On this basis, a system of consultation was proposed to be used in case of any incident which might alter normal relations between the two countries.

Communique Issued

PY061859Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1520 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text of communique released by Argentine-Chilean mixed commission No 1 in Buenos Aires on 6 April]

[Text] In Buenos Aires today the work of the Argentine-Chilean mixed commission ended. It was established by the Act of Puerto Montt to propose to the Argentine and Chilean governments measures aimed at creating the necessary conditions of harmony and equity to reach an integral and final solution to the problems included in point three of the act.

According to the agenda, the first mixed commission made a study of matters related to troops and police forces at the border, seeking to create conditions of harmony and equity advocated by the two nations in their mutual relations. It also proposed a system of consultations which will be used should any event arise that might disturb normal relations between the two countries. It also examined matters related to navigation, aids to navigation, pilotage, air navigation and safeguarding human life at sea.

The commission also studied the problems related to border traffic of personnel and vehicles and the situation of citizens of one country residing in the other as well as the particular rules drawn up by the two countries regarding the limitations of the objectives of this commission.

In conclusion the commission made a study of the rules of agreement regarding the exploitation of renewable natural resources and the promotion of greater exchange and understanding between the two countries.

With regard to the mentioned subjects, the first mixed commission has made proposals to the respective governments, thus considering itself to have fulfilled its objective.

The first mixed commission believes it is its duty to emphasize the spirit of harmony and real understanding which prevailed during the meetings and it is certain that the same spirit will prevail during the next stage of negotiations foreseen in the Act of Puerto Montt.

The communique dated 6 April is signed by the chairmen of the two delegations: Maj Gen Pablo Osvaldo Apella of Argentina and Brig Gen Luis J. Ramirez Pineda of Chile.

AMBASSADOR TO BOLIVIA VOWS TOTAL SUPPORT ON SEA ACCESS

PY061312Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Aly Louis Ipres Corbat, Argentine ambassador to La Paz, has confirmed the solidarity of his country with ours, making a clear reference to the conflict we have with Chile. Argentina will give all kinds of support to Bolivia, as long as the present situation prevails and until a solution to the maritime problem is found, the Argentine ambassador said.

He added: It is enough to recall the statements made by Adm Emilio Massera in the city of Santa Cruz. On that occasion Massera told President Banzer and all those who were present at the ceremony, when he was decorated by the Bolivian Government, that Argentina already knows who the enemies of Bolivia are in its landlocked situation. Those enemies must be reminded of Avaroa's words: "Let your grandmother surrender!"

Ipres Corbat was at the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon to deliver the approval of his country on the appointment of Carlos Alcoreza Melgarejo as new Bolivian ambassador to the Argentine Government.

When asked about the Argentine-Chilean negotiations regarding the Beagle Channel, the ambassador said that the first meeting will end this weekend and that there is a 180-day deadline to learn the recommendations to be made by the members [of the commission] to each government.

It has been learned in Buenos Aires that Argentina will insist on Chilean withdrawal from the positions it occupied on the tiny islands immediately after the British arbitration decision became known. This, in fact, means that Chile will have to leave those positions as a condition for continuing the negotiations for maintaining peace in the South Atlantic.

UCR'S BALBIN DISCUSSES NATIONAL ISSUES

PY052218Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0130 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr--The head of the Radical Civic Union (UCR), Ricardo Balbin, said today that the recent message by the president offered a prospect, "but we do not have a proposal." He called Gen Jorge Rafael Videla "a great general for democracy." Balbin made these remarks during an interview published by LA SEMANA magazine in its latest issue. Balbin reiterated his objections to the economic policies and referred harshly once again to those who are against political activity.

He said: "There are many people becoming known in the government whom we have never seen before. They are the ones who are trying to find a way for this situation to continue."

Asked if an experience such as the so-called "hour of the people" could again take place, Balbin answered: "The same thing will not take place; something related to it, yes."

Asked about the forthcoming world soccer championship, Balbin said: "It will not have the expected success due to the propaganda being generated, both here and abroad." He added: "Also due to the abuse of some prices by those who intend to earn overnight what they are not able to earn in a year."

Balbin was also asked if he believed it is necessary to ask the Peronist Party for "some type of change." Balbin said: "When people speak of self-criticism, they seem to refer to a study of defects. Here, we must keep in mind the good and bad things." He then said: "In this regard the armed forces should also undergo self-criticism. I believe they have done it, that the way of doing things has been changed. Peronists have the great need to organize themselves."

With regard to the 2 years of military government, Balbin recalled what he said some time ago, that "we are in the presence of a new army." He added: "I believe this is true. I believe that subversion was real, that the country was not aware of its identity, its penetration."

He said: "This government has put an end to the most serious part of the problem, we might say, making mistakes, but they have done it."

With regard to the government, he said: "It has an economic policy which the country does not like. They believe it is a good policy and that it is going to produce results. I do not believe so." He said: "In international affairs, the official attitude has been correct. An Argentine presence has been achieved in the American continent and in the world. He said: "On the political scene, they have done nothing. They have to do everything. Some time has been lost." He added: "In sum, I would say that if they consider that the country's institutional reorganization is a stage which must now be carried out, the other criticisms could be avoided."

With regard to the enforcement of human rights, the UCR leader indicated that "considering the stages which the country has experienced it is possible that some debatable events may have occurred and that it may be necessary to prevent them."

He said: "We have not hidden our way of thinking, but it should not be forgotten that sometimes those who defend human rights are the same people who violate them. There is a crisis in the world with regard to human rights." He pointed out: "At any rate, there is an obligation to defend them. What has happened in the country has been exaggerated abroad."

With respect to the attitude of political parties to the current process he said that he does not believe that "there was consent." He said: "They have understood the process."

Balbin was asked his thinking on the creation of a movement of opinion, mentioned by the president in his speech last week. Balbin said: "There will have to be an explanation as to whether parties will remain parties. We could say that some of them are movements in themselves."

Balbin asked: "Will the structure announced in the speech integrate all parties but allow their individuality, or will it be above the parties? It is not clear."

Balbin reiterated his opposition to official economic policy and indicated that "it is negative" for the country. He then indicated: "If the economic policies of Martinez de Hoz create social complaints, it is worth paying a price to avoid them. It is much more expensive to solve problems later." He emphasized: "We have to understand that many times the stubbornness of an economist can destroy the destiny of a generation. Martinez de Hoz has to think about this; that not all things are equations."

He insisted: "There is something else essential in this matter: The social condition of the people. In this regard they are seriously wrong. If they insist on this social injustice we can have serious problems in the future."

When it was pointed out to him that the opening of dialog and the incorporation of new figures into politics might lead to the replacement of the "old" and of Balbin himself, the president of the UCR answered that he did not wish to be consulted. He said: "I want my party to be consulted." He explained: "When I talked about incorporating new figures I was not talking about substitution. There are people who are very capable but have never been involved in public affairs. These people now believe that their participation is necessary."

He added: "I am not going to give names but I know officials in my province who speak as if they are essential. Then one looks back and they were never seen. They only appeared during the institutional interruptions."

The reporter asked, "You seem to be speaking of Jaime Smart, the Buenos Aires Province government minister...."

Balbin answered: "No. This conversation is very important." [as received]

The reporter insisted: "Well, speaking of Smart or his equivalent..."

Balbin then asked: "Can there be an equivalent?"

MONTES TO SIGN NUCLEAR PLANT DEAL IN ECUADOR

PY061558Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1533 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr--The purpose of Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Montes' visit to Ecuador on 11 April is to sign with the Ecuadorean Government an agreement to supply Argentine technology for the installation of a nuclear plant in that country. A rumor from reliable sources points out that Montes will also sign a technical and economic cooperation agreement.

Montes' mission--the agreement will be signed with his colleague Jose Ayala Lasso--will seek the improvement of economic relations between the two countries, since there are about 100 Argentine companies operating in Ecuador, among them Government Oil Deposits (YPF).

The unofficial version indicates that although YPF did not find oil in the area designated by Ecuador, the government will soon offer YPF a new area for exploration. These matters will be discussed during Montes' visit to Ecuador, which will last 1 week, after his trip to Bolivia and a later one to Colombia. The agenda for this trip is being prepared by his colleagues at San Martin Palace, the source indicated.

TWO OFFICERS KILLED IN POLICE STATION BOMBING

PY061231Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1010 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 April--A powerful bomb exploded this morning inside a police station in northeast Buenos Aires, killing inspector Carlos Carballo and an unidentified police officer, it was announced by reliable sources.

BRIEFS

IMPROVEMENT OF JAILS REQUESTED--Buenos Aires, 22 Mar--In a note addressed to Justice Minister Julio Gomez, the Argentine Permanent Human Rights Assembly today requested the adoption of measures leading to better treatment of prisoners in Argentine jails. The note is signed, by among others, bishops Carlos Gattioni and Jaime de Navares. The assembly is made up of members of religious groups and politicians. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1905 GMT 22 Mar 78 PY]

'HEATED ATMOSPHERE' OVER CHILE DESCRIBED AS COOLING

PY061920Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1729 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 6 Apr--In an apparent reply to the newspaper EL MERCURIO of Santiago, President Banzer said here today that official statements about Chile "should be highminded and responsible."

The Santiago daily had requested President Banzer to retract his own declarations as to a possible war with the neighboring country over the question of Bolivia's landlocked situation.

The La Paz newspaper PRESENCIA believed that Banzer's remarks today were prompted by "the international repercussions of the Bolivian president's statement in Cochabamba that he would not rule out war as one of the possibilities for Bolivia in order to recover an outlet to the Pacific."

Banzer's latest remarks cooled off the atmosphere in Bolivia, which was somewhat heated up by reports coming from Chile that that country had called up its armed forces reserves.

About Chilean citizens residing in Bolivia, an editorial in PRESENCIA stated that "most of the Chileans residing in Bolivia are complying with our laws and have the right to stay here in peace and security, a situation not changed because of the rupture of relations with Chile." The editorial continues: "We must act that way out of respect for our own laws, out of our generosity and understanding, and even because of a practical sense of reciprocity. We must treat foreigners in Bolivia as we would like Bolivians to be treated in foreign lands."

Information gathered here this morning says that, in an apparent effort to reduce the tension of previous days, Bolivian traffic through Chilean ports was completely normal and that the situation at the border between the two nations was also normal.

After the 3-day meeting of the high command, a military communique made "a fervent call to the citizenry to close ranks so as to make possible, through a joint national effort, a return to the sea and thus insure the country's progress and overall development." Independent observers interpreted that call as being "essentially peaceful and conciliatory."

The increasing understanding between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Channel as well as the present Peruvian political situation--which is more concerned with the internal political future than with diplomatic actions--helped the high command to be more rational.

After the "war of declarations," "the armistice of communiques was signed," a Bolivian diplomatic expert pointed out.

The analyst added that the country will concern itself with the solution of the economic crisis stemming from the low prices of tin and the upcoming presidential elections. In that process of economic recovery, attacks will be bitterly followed by repeated counterattacks, with victory going to the official candidate Juan Pereda.

POLITICAL FIGURES LAUD CONFIRMATION OF ELECTIONS

PY061811Y Sucre Radio la Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Several politicians have expressed great satisfaction over the confirmation of the armed forces to constitutionalize the country next 9 July, saying that the decision is an action which satisfied the desires of the Bolivian people.

Edwin Tapia, of the People's Nationalist Union stated that the military decision had been awaited by the whole population and that the document issued is equal to all the expectations of the community. We now see that the armed forces identify themselves fully with the aspirations of the majority sectors of the people.

(Jorge Lugo), of the National Barrientist Union said that his party has much faith in the armed forces. We could not expect that a backward step would be taken. On the contrary, we have nursed our hope in the maturity of the armed forces and in the word pledged by President Banzer and his commanding generals, and that they would keep their promise literally, and that has in fact happened.

Gaston Moreira, of the Bolivian Socialist Falange, stated that the armed forces communique has been received with real satisfaction. Gaston Moreira said: I believe that it is an adequate measure, respecting the feelings of all citizens. He added that his party is fully identified with revolutionary nationalism for which the armed forces are fighting.

AFP EXAMINES CURRENT ELECTORAL SCENE

PY061955Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1538 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 6 Apr--Observers said here today that the coming 9 July elections will be won by the official candidate, Juan Pereda, because the opposition factions have declared war among themselves and the leftists intend to abstain.

Pereda now has only one proclaimed rival, Rene Bernal, who is also a retired general and who is supported by the small Christian Democratic Party and by his native city of Oruro.

The left continues to be "Vietnamized" [as received] in political and labor union struggles and has not made the decision to wage electoral war against the government-sponsored party.

Mario Gutierrez, who has been officially proclaimed the candidate of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], will endorse Pereda's candidacy, it was asserted within the FSB itself.

Pereda will have an exhausting electoral campaign with constant proselytizing trips but his real difficulties will begin when he is invested as constitutional president by General Banzer next 6 August, which is a Bolivian national holiday.

The problems of the new president will be the economic difficulties of the country; the 100th anniversary in 1979 of the War of the Pacific in which Bolivia lost its coast; the unity of the armed forces; the parliamentary struggle; and "labor power."

The old labor leader Juan Lechin Oquendo is absent from the political-electoral struggle. Lechin has remained aloof from the electoral campaign because he does not seek the presidency but rather the leadership of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB]. It was asserted in La Paz that the labor leader maintains that the power of the unions will be greater than that of congress, without becoming a political power "parallel" to that of the government.

The COB congress will be held during the second half of this year and will lead not only to a strengthening of the labor unions but will also create a powerful force in the country, able to control the internal political situation with the strike weapon.

It still remains to be seen whether former President Hernan Siles Zuazo will decide to enter the electoral stage. With his prestige among peasants and mineworkers he could be a formidable enemy for General Pereda and an importnat factor of opposition to the government-sponsored party, observers in La Paz concluded.

GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT AUSTERITY PROGRAM

PY070343Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] The government today announced that an austerity program for the public sector designed to alleviate and reduce the effects of the national economic deficit brought on by foreign [word indistinct] factors, will be implemented on20 April. Minister Juan Lechin Suarez announced the program which encourages state enterprises to decrease their budgets by 20 percent.

PAZ ESTENSSORO REJECTS IDEA OF FPN FRONT

PY050343Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] A discreet effort to regroup the Nationalist Popular Front (FPN) to form a government similar to the one established in 1971 was apparently unsuccessful due to a rejection of the move by former President Victor Paz Estenssoro. According to reliable sources, the effort was undertaken by one of the leaders of the defunct FPN, the leader of the Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB), Mario Gutierrez, and former Falange minister Mario Serrate Paz.

According to a telephone report to political leaders in La Paz by Paz Estenssoro himself, the two Falange leaders visited the former president in the state of New Mexico, in the United States, where he has academic duties. Paz' reaction to the proposal was negative and he replied that "the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] will not join that effort." The Falange leaders had traveled to the United States for the express purpose of speaking with him and trying to agree on his participation in the outline of an FPN-style political alliance. A similar effort was made by former Minister Alfredo Arce, but he failed also.

BRIEFS

SOVIET CREDIT--Mashinoeksport of the Soviet Union has granted a $10-million credit to the Oruro Tin Commission for the improvement of Bolivian tin industry installations. The credit arrangements will be signed by represenatives from Mashinoeksport and leaders of the Oruro Tin Commission. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY]

FIGUEIREDO VIEWS POLITICAL PACIFICATION, DIRECT ELECTIONS

Political Pacification To Continue

PY061530Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2018 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Apr--Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, the designated successor of President Geisel, said here today that he expected to carry out a political pacification of the country during his government.

The future Brazilian president, who will be inaugurated on 15 March 1979 and who is currently chief of the National Intelligence Service, made that remark which is published by the weekly magazine MANCHETE.

General Figueiredo added that the process of political pacification initiated by President Geisel may suffer a setback should subversive activities increase in the country.

After saying that subversion "is the kind of opposition we cannot tolerate," he added that subversion "could take advantage of a possible victory" of the only legal opposition party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement, in legislative elections this coming 15 November.

About the Brazilian legal opposition, Figueiredo said that "I expect it to act as an opposition, because acting in this way is its right and duty." He then stated: "I will continue slowly and gradually" the process of political pacification initiated by President Geisel.

Direct Vote for Governors Advocated

PY051335Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The future president, Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, said in a press interview that he favors direct election for governors, and for presidential elections he considers that the elections must be indirect, i.e., the U.S. system.

Stating that the revolution will not end, General Figueiredo believes that a Brazilian Democratic Movement victory would harm the process now underway.

MDB, ARENA SENATE LEADERS SPEAK ON DEMOCRATIC DIALOG

PY051625Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Apr 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Paulo Brossard [Rio Grande Do Sul State] today took the floor to deliver his first speech as the new leader of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] in the Senate. He said that the nation wants to achieve peace under the protection of the law, and added that after so many disagreements and unsuccessful efforts, after so many errors and abuses, the time has come to seek national reconciliation.

Noting that although it is late there is still time, Brossard said that we are approaching the time in which national conciliation will become mandatory, when arrogance and intransigence will give way to a new spirit of agreement and understanding.

Brossard believes that the serious economic problems, which are becoming increasingly worse, and their unavoidable social consequences will prompt us to seek a national reconciliation.

Commenting on the so-called political dialog, Brossard said that despite everything the opposition favors political talks because it places the nation above the government.

He made it clear, however, that this dialog must be conducted logically and ethically, without impositions or submissiveness for the very reason that dialog must allow for compromises, give-and-take, participation in decisions and negotiating leverage.

He noted that throughout the 9-month period of the so-called political dialog, the government has maintained the selfish attitude of one who expects everything from others but gives nothing in return so that no one really knows what the government wants.

Brossard rejected the charges of radicalism made against the opposition by noting that no one could consider a person radical just because he calls black what is black, and white what is white.

Reviewing the reasons which led him to question the present dialog, Brossard mentioned the fact that the opposition continues to be an ineffectual [proscrito] party, while the ruling party continues to be a privileged party. He said that one could not call political dialog a conversation held between a speechless party [um partido sem voz], National Renewal Alliance [ARENA], and a party without a chance [um partido sem vez], the MDB.

He reaffirmed that although the MDB is willing to talk, in no way will it yield to threats no matter what these threats are or from where they originate.

Commenting on the announced political reforms, Brossard said that the opposition will only approve those which will result in the country's constitutional normalization. He stated that the opposition will strongly oppose every action designed to promote the perpetuation of arbitrariness, even if it is disguised under new formulas.

Brossard said that since the enactment of the so-called "April package," the MDB's eventual participation in the announced reforms has become completely unnecessary, since the government can now do everything either through presidential decisions or through a majority vote. Yet, he noted that any reform approved without the MDB's participation, either through a presidential decision or through an ARENA majority vote, will become a national institution lacking popular support.

Commenting on the announced reforms, Brossard said that the cure could be worse than the disease. He said that nothing will be gained by replacing AI-5, if it is to be made permanent through the use of safeguards.

However, the new MDB leader said that the opposition still believes that the government will overcome its self-sufficiency [passage indistinct] and will allow popular participation, because although it is late, there is still time.

After asking if there were any reason which could prevent President Geisel from taking a wise political action, Brossard concluded by warning the government that if it persists in following a biased policy which divides the country, it will be indulging in a dangerous action which could open dark prospects for the future.

Brossard congratulated his predecessor, Senator Franco Montoro, and greeted Senators Petronio Portella and Eurico Rezende, the Senate president and the ARENA leader in the Senate, respectively.

Senator Rezende then took the floor and charged the opposition with pessimism, intolerance, impatience and with being unjust.

Rezende started his speech by noting that he would overlook everything which might not contribute to achieving agreements, and that he would emphasize those issues which can contribute to furthering democratic dialog. He then added that it could be said that Brossard spoke not only as the MDB leader but as a soldier playing the role of a general, thus helping the country restore the state of law.

Rezende said that the state of law must reconcile the interests of the state with the freedom and interests of the citizen, interests which are often confused. He praised the mission carried out by Senator Petronio Portella, whom he considered a prominent Brazilian public figure.

Always noting that he would overlook the emotional part of Brossard's speech, Rezende expressed his confidence that following his opening speech as MDB leader, Brossard will get involved in the Portella mission, thus joining this common effort toward improving our democratic institutions.

After defending the reforms enacted by the government in April 1977, Rezende concluded by stating that it is unfortunate that some MDB leaders who truly favor democracy are confronted with others favoring subversion within their own party.

Rezende said that ARENA, instead, seeks to improve our democratic institutions, without having dissidents in its ranks. When the session was coming to an end, Rezende expressed his confidence in President Geisel and in the conscientiousness of the Brazilian people, who have a strong calling for freedom.

ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL ACCORD SIGNED WITH NORWAY

PY061515Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1859 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 5 Apr--Brazil and Norway signed here today a commercial agreement on economic, industrial and technical cooperation, particularly technical in the area of offshore oil exploration.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira and Crown Prince Harald of Norway, who emphasized its "practical value" in strengthening bilateral economic relations.

The Norwegian Government also confirmed its desire to cooperate with Brazil in the field of petroleum by granting a $20 million credit to PETROBRAS.

The delegation headed by the crown prince included businessmen specializing in offshore oil research.

Brazilian-Norwegian trade has been favorable to Brazil for many years. Brazil exported coffee and cellulose for 672 million Norwegian krones in 1977 and purchased herring for 309 million krones.

A mixed intergovernmental commission which will meet once a year in Brasilia or in Oslo was also created by the agreement signed today.

GOVERNMENT NOT CONCERNED AT GENSCHER VISIT TO U.S.

PY050346Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Apr 78 p 7 PY

[Excerpt] The Brazilian Government does not know whether the Brazilian-FRG nuclear accord will be discussed at the meetings which Hans-Dietrich Genscher will have in Washington, but at least one thing is certain: "There is nothing to worry about." This statement was made yesterday by Itamaraty spokesman Luis Felipe Lampreia, who believes that the nuclear accord "has just been confirmed by Geisel's recent visit to Bonn. Lampreia said that the visit which FRG Ambassador Georg Kastl paid to Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira on Friday night was a "courtesy visit."

DEPUTIES TO INVESTIGATE ANGRA SECURITY SYSTEM

PY061500Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies will investigate the security system used at the Angra nuclear plant.

The investigation will be carried out by the chamber's Science and Technology Committee. Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki, responsible for the project, will be the first to be called.

The president of NUCLEBRAS, who is directing the project, and other technicians, scientists and engineers of the nuclear plant will be called later.

SCIENTIST CRITICIZES DECISION TO USE ENRICHED URANIUM CYCLE

PY040332Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, 3 Apr--Arcelo Damy de Souza Santos, Brazilian professor and nuclear scientist, has criticized Brazil's decision to use enriched uranium in its nuclear plants and lauded Argentina's adoption of the natural uranium system.

According to the professor, the method of producing nuclear energy with natural uranium, which has been adopted by England, France, India, Argentina and partially by the USSR, guarantees among other things, greater independence for the country.

In an interview with O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, one of the points criticized by Damy de Souza Santos regarding the nuclear agreement which Brazil signed with the FRG in 1975 is the process of uranium enrichment which is to be developed in Brazil. If this method does not work, where will we find ourselves? the scientist asks.

He adds: "This is the national risk we take unless we find a country which is disposed to supply us with the enriched uranium we will need for 10 years, even though this depends on many conditions."

This is why he believes that Brazil should have adopted the natural uranium system for its future plants, a system which was adopted by and is already operating in the neighboring country.

If this had happened, Brazil could reach the point achieved by France with reactors that are supergenerators [breeder reactors], a point which Argentina will reach because it has been continually working in this direction since 1955.

"To the contrary, there are frequent changes and indecision in Brazil, which disrupts teams and results in a lack of guidance and an impossibility of implementing a longer-lasting program," he said.

JORNAL COMMENTS ON U.S. NONPROLIFERATION LAW

PY060348Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Unilateral Repeal"]

[Text] Through its new nuclear nonproliferation act, the United States intends to redesign the future of nuclear development in all nations. Since this law is intended to repeal contracts signed by the U.S. Government, it can surely be regarded as a unilateral measure. While several aspects included in this law can be questioned in the light of international law, it would be naive to ignore, for various reasons, that this is a legislative action taken by a power which has confidence in its power of negotiation and dissuasion.

Through several mechanisms, this law seeks to bring the nuclear programs of all Western countries under a new framework of safeguards which are designed primarily to avoid the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In a way, the United States seeks to achieve--through an unilateral action--what the nuclear nonproliferation treaty was unable to achieve through multilateral action.

To enforce its nonproliferation policy, which now stems from President Carter's personal position and which is democratically supported by the congressional majority, the United States is threatening to suspend the supply of enriched uranium to dissident countries.

If considered exclusively from the viewpoint of proliferation risk, the law has the wisdom of preventing the appearance of discreet strategic compromises which could result, in the future, in the development of new nuclearized nations. In this respect, the law seeks to contribute to maintaining the well-being of mankind, although subordinating it to the action of nuclearized countries, primarily the governments of Washington and Moscow, whose efforts toward disarmament were rather mild.

If considered from the viewpoint of technological development, the law will jeopardize research development and will weaken the energy self-sufficiency of many countries.

While in recent history there are sound reasons to believe in nonproliferation, there are other strong reasons which call for the United States to adopt a specific, clear policy regarding nuclear matters. While this new law outlines what must not be done, neither President Carter nor the U.S. Congress states what can be done.

Ten years ago, when the nonproliferation treaty was being negotiated, the United States officially announced the Plowshare program to those countries it was trying to persuade to join the treaty. It would provide nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes to all signatories of the document, provided that these signatories promised not to produce them. It was also reported that these explosives could be used in civilian construction, in underground mining work and even for generating energy. This program, which many nations trusted in good faith, was simply discontinued and is today clearly rejected by the U.S. Government.

If we just look back at the 1940's, when the safeguard of scientific silence prevailed in U.S. laboratories, and when nuclear technology was developed through international cooperation, we can see the different positions adopted by the United States in relation to this serious matter.

If the United States were a small nation, its hesitations and varying moods would merely have a rhetorical effect. But, considering that it is the leading Western power, its ambiguity is at least disquieting.

It is known that the U.S. Government intends to propose to the world a project calling for regional reprocessing plants. It is not known, however, how these plants would operate and where they would be located. It is known that the United States is trying to develop advanced, more economical technologies regarding reactors. It is not known, however, how these plants would be commercially exploited.

Like Joshua, the one-sided nonproliferation act approved by Washington is trying to stop the sun. Yet, unlike Joshua, it is not known what kind of Philistines it is intended to fight and what kind of order it entends to set up when the sun starts to move again.

ABREU PROMOTION ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS ARMY'S DISCONTENT

PY052200Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Apr 78 p 7 PY

[Article by E.P.]

[Text] Since he believes that his promotion to four-star general was recently postponed primarily for political reasons, Gen Hugo Abreu [former National Security Council secretary] decided not to request his separation from active service. Consequently, he believes that he is also entitled to make a political decision, although knowing quite well that he may face harassment and pressure as a result of his decision to stay on active duty. Officers close to General Abreu admitted yesterday that he may have to face such a situation.

In the understanding of military observers having different viewpoints, General Abreu is exposed mainly to two consequences because of his decision: 1) President Geisel may increase the restrictions he is putting on General Abreu, who would then get the unambiguous idea that his technically possible promotion to four-star general next November--when there will be four openings--would be quite unlikely for political reasons; and 2) General Abreu will strengthen his belief that he has a mission to fulfill because, with no more hopes for promotion to nourish, he will decide to withstand pressure, to stay in active service. And if he does so, he will certainly receive strong encouragement.

Qualified military analysts point out that the situation in which General Abreu finds himself can be rationally evaluated, in light of the two consequences to which he is exposed, to provide the conclusion that the postponement of his promotion has caused dissatisfaction in the army--not so much because of the personal situation of General Abreu, but because of President Geisel's intransigence in dealing with the army high command. We now know that during the meeting in which that top army body prepared the promotion list to be submitted to the president, one of the generals formally suggested that Army Minister Gen Belfort Bethlem let President Geisel know the high command's desire that the sequence of names on the list be maintained.

Obviously General Figueiredo's name was at the top of the list, not only because of professional merit--which he certainly has, but not in sufficient quantity to merit moving him from fifth to first place--but also as a demonstration that, by showing deference to the current and the future president, some ruffled feathers could be thoroughly smoothed out. We do not know if Minister Bethlem made those desires known to President Geisel, but undoubtedly the president exercised his right to choose the names of those candidates he prefers. By doing so, however, the president increased the growing number of people who are thinking about the words of Col Tarsicio Ferreira Nunes although not daring to assume the outspoken attitude of that officer who is still under disciplinary arrest because of his pronouncement. And for those who doubt this interpretation, which some military observers say is provocative, we must point out the argument presented by other military observers. To have a true measure of the situation created for and by General Abreu, it suffices to note what happened at the luncheon in the aeronautics club on 31 March--anniversary of the 1964 revolution and promotion day. President Geisel greeted a large number of generals in the line, but for some reason which very few believe was coincidental, did not greet General Abreu. On the other side of the picture, when it became common knowledge that General Abreu had not been promoted, although the official announcement was not made until later, a large number of his colleagues greeted him effusively, revealing not perhaps open disagreement with the reasons behind the promotions, but certainly a discreet solidarity with a colleague passed over for promotion.

Younger officers, predominantly those serving in Rio de Janeiro, have expressed dissatisfaction with the way things are going in informal talks with people they trust.

Out of the conviction that there could be objections to any candidate no matter who he was, since the succession process was handled in such a restrictive manner, nobody is really standing in defiance of the future president, General Figueiredo. And this is so because rank and discipline are still respected values in the army, despite the real disagreement of a quite significant number of officers regarding the manner in which the army became involved in the political process. Added to all of this is their perplexity over the small participation the army has even in decisions affecting its own ranks, especially since its political involvement is eroding the army's prestige before public opinion.

According to my sources in the army, this week General Abreu will calmly evaluate all the implications of this situation in which he has become the main actor, in some degree even against his own will. Those who are close to General Abreu are sure that he, at no time, has given any pretext which could be exploited to involve him in intrigues with the nation's president, and that he always acted loyally, unambitiously and clearly. He would not like to stir things up too much now; on the contrary, he would like to quiet them down. But it seems certain, although paradoxical in view of his desire to keep a low profile, that the lack of both the fourth star and a commitment with President Geisel will give him broader freedom to pursue, with more self-assurance and less obligations, the mission to which he feels dutybound.

REACTION TO PINOCHET ADDRESS VARIES

UP Leader Criticizes Speech

PY061758Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1732 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Berlin, 6 Apr--Clodomiro Almeyda, executive secretary of the Popular Unity [UP] front of Chile, charged here today that President Augusto Pinochet had launched "a new diversionary maneuver." In similarly harsh terms, Almeyda expressed his opinion on the "transition stage toward institutionalization" announced yesterday by Pinochet. This is indicative of the institutionalization of a fascist dictatorship," Almeyda said. The UP leader also denounced the military junta's vagueness on the whereabouts of 2,500 persons who have been arrested or who have disappeared since the 1973 military coup.

Business Leaders Respond

PY062250Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Private sector leaders have noted agreement with the proposals made last night by President Pinochet. The president of the Industrial Development Association, Hernan Daroch, said that the chief of state's speech coincided with economic proposals already discussed.

With respect to the probable employment rate increase, he said that the association is optimistic because, as economic reactivation increases with more exports and greater domestic demand, a greater number of workers will have to be employed. He added that he sincerely believes industrial reactivation will be even greater than the country's overall growth. With respect to the transition to institutionality, he added that he believed the established guidelines for this goal are concrete and positive in all aspects.

Manuel Valdes, the president of the Production and Commerce Confederation, said that the president's speech restored a sense of tranquillity to the citizenry and counteracted the malicious rumors which have been circulating recently. With regard to the president's economic proposals, Valdes stated that they are in agreement with the confederation's views. However, he stated that he would rather have heard more concrete proposals with regard to decreases in income tax and provisional reforms. Nonetheless, he added that he could comprehend the lack of such proposals in the speech, because these are specific problems and the president only discussed problems of a general nature.

JUSTICE MINISTRY SAYS 224 ELIGIBLE FOR PARDON

PY061906Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] (Celso Ferrara), director of the Social Communications and Public Relations Department of the Justice Ministry, has reported that 224 persons have been favored with the presidential pardon announced last night by President Pinochet. He added that 63 of these persons had previously requested a pardon but they had been rejected.

He noted that after the president announced the measure the Justice Ministry started immediately to determine the exact number of persons which would be benefited by the measure. All of these persons were charged with violations of the arms control law, the national security law or military code of justice.

He added that the 224 favored with the presidential measure are divided into three groups: 63 who were judged by military courts and had requested their sentences be commuted to exile but were turned down; 72 who were judged by military courts and had their sentences commuted, but lacked visas because there are at present no countries which want to receive them; and 89 who were charged by military courts but until now have requested the commutation of their sentences to the Justice Ministry. (Ferrara) added that the persons in this last group will be asked whether they would like to accept the benefit announced by the president.

The official list of those persons who were favored with the presidential measure will be issued in a few days.

TOWNLEY ATTACKS U.S. IN RADIO INTERVIEW

PY021442Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Michael Townley's answers to questionnaire submitted by Radio Mineria and cleared beforehand by his attorney--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Townley, there is talk about extradition. What do you know about this?

[Answer] I do not consider the charges made by the United States a personal attack but a cunning political attack against the Chilean Government.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Because they know that they will not obtain extradition through judicial proceedings since they cannot gather evidence against me.

[Question] Is there any?

[Answer] No, because there cannot be any; but they could easily make some up, as I believe they do in many cases. In any case extradition would not apply in this case because I believe this is clearly a political case and therefore extradition is not applicable.

[Question] What do you think about the present situation?

[Answer] I sincerely regret that they are trying to involve the Chilean Government. I believe they are going to exert pressure on the Chilean Government through threats, as the United States is accustomed to doing to obtain a possible extradition. To do this they use subterfuge (?based) on legal dispositions. This is a tactic the United States uses a lot.

[Question] Why do you talk about pressure?

[Answer] Because there are many rumors in this regard. Several people have warned me about this. Furthermore, everybody is quite aware that the United States uses its dollars and weapons to make small countries, such as Chile, yield to its threats. But I, as a patriot, as a fighter against Marxism and as a junta supporter above everything else, believe that Chile will not yield to improper pressure.

[Question] Do you trust the Chilean courts?

[Answer] Absolutely, and with closed eyes. I believe that the Chilean courts will be able to uphold their well-earned prestige and that truth and justice will prevail above everything else. I know that the United States is a powerful country and that the FBI is very powerful in that country. This is why I request Chilean authorities and all those who know me not to be intimidated or pressured by a country which is internationally known for its arrogant power and to let the Chilean courts investigate me here in my country, Chile.

BRIEFS

INCREASED EXPORTS--The Production Development Corporation has carried out through its development agency a foreign market study for Chilean products. This work revealed a 127-percent increase in total Chilean exports from 1971 to 1976. Traditional Chilean exports increased 97 percent and nontraditional exports by 416 percent. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY]

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES--A study conducted by the Economics Department of the University of Chile indicates a slight decrease in the unemployment rate in Chile during December 1977, in comparison with December 1976. In December 1977, the labor force reached 1,374,900 persons--37.1 percent of the total population. The unemployment rate during December 1977 reached 13.2 percent, a slight decrease with respect to the 13.6-percent rate recorded in December 1976. The unemployment rate decrease during December 1977 was centered mainly in the production sector, while there was an increase in the services sector. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY]

COST OF LIVING--According to the statistics office director, the consumer price index reached 2.9 percent in March 1978, 50 percent lower than the March rate last year. The accumulated index in the first 3 months of 1978 is 7.3 percent, compared with 18.9 percent in the first 3 months of 1977. The rate of the March 1978 price index is the lowest in the last 8 years. Wholesale prices increased 4.4 percent in March 1978, compared with February, but this was for seasonal reasons. In 1977, the real increase of salaries was approximately 20 percent. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Apr 78 PY]

AGREEMENT WITH PERU--Santiago, 29 Mar--President Augusto Pinochet today signed a decree approving the scientific and technical cooperation signed between Chile and Peru. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0255 GMT 30 Mar 78 PY]

FRG LUMBER REPRESENTATIVES--Representatives from the FRG's principal lumber importing companies have arrived in Chile to evaluate the potential of Chilean lumber exports. The delegation is planning to visit several reforestation projects, lumberyards, exporting companies and southern ports. The FRG is one of Chile's principal lumber customers. The FRG bought $19,800,000 in wood products during 1977, 8.3 percent of total Chilean wood exports. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY]

ARMY CHIEF TO PERU--Maj Gen Carlos Forestier Haengsen, deputy army commander, will leave for Peru on Sunday. He will contact Peruvian military leaders and strengthen ties of friendship. General Forestier will also visit Cusco and Arequipa. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY]

PRESIDENT OPENS SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL SESSION

PA051200Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today said at the opening of the special congressional session that Congress has given the government considerable support. He also explained that a bill submitted to Congress will give the government 90 days to make the necessary adjustments for a wage increase for government employees, retroactive to 1 January. President Lopez said that this was not the first time during his administration that special powers had been requested to solve matters vital to the nation.

He commended congressmen for their understanding in granting the executive branch the special powers as requested and applauded their accomplishments during his administration.

President Lopez pointed out that Congress, by its own right, could study matters not included in the decree calling for a special session but which concerned Congress. In this manner, President Lopez settled the problem regarding the debate in the Judiciary Committee to decide the legal status of Public Works Minister Humberto Salcedo Collantes.

President Lopez reiterated that the special session was called primarily to approve bill No 48, which grants special powers to the executive branch to increase government employees' wages.

It was almost 17:0 when President Lopez arrived at Congress to open the special session, which will last 3 days.

[begin Lopez Michelsen recording] Constitutional provisions grant the government the power not only to decide exactly how long the special sessions can last, but also to discuss matters which require Congress' participation. This does not prevent Congress from taking care of other duties. The government cannot interfere with Congress' specific affairs.

On this occasion, however, Congress must abide by the terms clearly established in the decree calling it into special session. Therefore, Congress' specific duty on this occasion is limited during this session to the House of Representatives' approval of bill No 48 of 1977. This does not necessarily mean that Congress cannot assume its responsibilities and functions without the government's approval. It would be contradictory, to say the least, if matters to be discussed at the special session by Congress with the government's participation could only be discussed at the special session when submitted by the government. On this specific occasion, however, it has to do with granting the president of the republic special powers according to Paragraph [number indistinct] of Article 66 of the constitution, for a period of 90 days for specific purposes. [end recording]

LABOR LEADERS OPTIMISTIC AFTER GOVERNMENT TALKS

PA050253Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The government and labor centrals today reached an agreement on the need to jointly solve the existing social, economic and labor problems.

The presidents of the labor centrals, Luis Pastor Perez of the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombia, Tulio Cuevas of the Union of Workers of Colombia, Victor Baena Lopez of the General Labor Confederation and Manuel Felipe Hurtado of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia, met for 3 hours with President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Finance Minister Justo Palacio Rudas, Labor Minister Oscar Montoya and Julia Tulia Izquierdo Portocarrero, civil service department director, to analyze the nine-point document submitted by the labor officials.

The labor leaders were very optimistic after their talks with the government. They expect a solution to the problems of the Colombian people will come about soon.

BETANCUR PROTESTS DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

PA071400Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Medellin--Presidential candidate Belisario Betancur today asked the national government to demand a thorough investigation by U.S. authorities regarding the charges made by a U.S. television network about Colombia. Betancur emphatically [words indistinct] Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and government officials who were implicated in drug trafficking by the U.S. news report. The text of Betancur's statements to newsmen follows:

[begin Betancur recording] The fact that I have serious objections to the candidacy of Julio Cesar Turbay as his opponent and as a common citizen does not prevent me from publicly stating that I consider disrespectful to the (?dignity) of our country and censurable on the personal plane this attempt to connect the name of such a prominent political leader with international drug trafficking. As Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia wisely put it, it is good to know what types of persons work with the information services of the U.S. Government. [end recording]

SOLDIERS ARRESTED FOR TRANSPORTING MARIJUANA

PA061638Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Barranquilla, Colombia, 6 Apr (AFP)--It was learned here today that eight Colombian soldiers were arrested in this northern region as they were transporting 26 packages of marijuana in an army truck.

The soldiers--a sergeant, three corporals and four privates--were intercepted by a police patrol near Riohacha, on the Atlantic coast, according to official sources.

The soldiers, the vehicle and the marijuana were taken to Riohacha to be turned over to the 2d Military Brigade.

NEW GUERRILLA CELL APPEARS IN BUCARAMANGA

PA070102Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 5 Apr 78 p 11A PA

[By Manuel Hernandez]

[Text] Bucaramanga, 4 Apr--A new guerrilla cell, the members of which apparently come from local universities, announced here today the start of a wave of violence to call attention to the treatment being given to students, workers and certain professors at the Industrial University of Santander. The group has identified itself as the "Red Tribune" and claimed responsibility for several attacks against the university over the past few months.

HOY GIVES HARSH REVIEW OF CARTER TRIP

PY052056Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 5 Apr 78 p 11 PY

[Editorial: "The Peanut Grower's Trip"]

[Text] Official and unofficial sources will publish their respective versions of President Carter's recent trip and his visits to Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria and Liberia. All sorts of observers will be busy providing reports and revelations for the analysts to make in-depth studies of the main results of this delayed tour, for which only a couple of countries from two continents were chosen to be offered the benefit of personal contact with the most powerful man of the Western world.

For Latin America, that group of peoples which is identified from the U.S. viewpoint as that lying south of the Rio Grande, only two nations were found to deserve the favor of being chosen: Venezuela and Brazil. The first, it is said, was chosen because of democratic kinship and the very particular sympathy which Mr Carter seems to harbor toward Carlos Andres Perez, the Venezuelan president who is approaching the end of his term and is little more than a year from handing over the symbols of power. The second country was visited with the intention of reducing tensions--which were not reduced after all--created by allegedly incompatible positions, involving Brazil's launching of thermonuclear ventures in alliance with a country which is not the United States, and by the state of the blessed, oft-mentioned human rights which have become the lodestar of the policy headed by the man from Georgia who left peanut growing to dedicate himself to politics.

We do not wish to disparage the feat of jumping from the worthy agricultural profession to the leadership of a leading country in the world, a country which has created customs and lifestyles in which the Carter administration has taken a keen interest. It has tried to take by assault the sovereignty and idiosyncrasies of each one of the nations comprising the vast domain of imperial economic domination, tightening all the screws of colonialism and wanting now to tighten those of human rights, which was still lacking. It so happens, however, that there is a difference between gathering plentiful harvests of peanuts which reach the chewing consumer packed in pretty little plastic bags and the art of governing more than half the world, a difference which is very plain but goes beyond the good intentions which must undoubtedly be nursed by the U.S. President.

Venezuela must have been encouraged by the arrival of the U.S. President and his statement that he agrees with its democratic points of view and does not question it regarding human rights. He was therefore warmly received and the expressions of welcome were very different from those greeting then Vice President Nixon some years ago. But such arguments alone will not be enough to convince a country rich in petroleum production to freeze crude prices for the benefit of the U.S. economy, because Venezuela knows that only through the benefits it can obtain now by the sale of its black gold will it be able to diversify its industry, give up consuming canned lettuce and build up the structure for a post-petroleum era, when the reserves of now-productive oil wells will have become exhausted. The visit to Bolivar's democratic homeland has therefore only called forth the echo of a splendid harangue of great affection, empty of real content.

The stopover in Brazil must have been much less useful. There was a breach of protocol there since President Geisel was not with him at the airport in Brasilia, because the whole country was fully aware that nobody had invited this gentleman who had invited himself. The forced or spontaneous smile of the face which became charismatic during the U.S. elections could only be observed from a distance by the curious who had gathered to see, but not to cheer or celebrate, the arrival of an eternal father who descended from the plane with his own chariots and his guardian angels, who were not exactly provided with wings but rather with large-caliber repeating weapons to prevent contamination from what they must have believed to be a field infested with poisonous vermin, terrible assassins and heavily armed gangsters. The independence itself of the host country was violated through irritating procedures which were more like those of a sporadic visit to an unfriendly country than of a good-will trip, and the champion of human rights insultingly contradicted, by his own will or because of security requirements, all the principles upholding the sovereignty of another country.

Carter was jammed into an armored vehicl costing several percent of the foodstuffs which could be used by the starving people of other continents who do not enjoy human rights, and contact with him was denied by his own praetorian guard.

About the burning issues, nothing. Only toward the end of his tour did he let out a statement asserting that he had found an improvement in the human rights situation in Brazil, as if he would have been able to make such a deep observation in the short span of 40 hours without leaving his steel box. What sagacity!

There is undoubtedly some difference between growing peanuts and ruling the world.

AUTHORITIES RELEASE 21 DETAINEES

PY311745Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 31 Mar 78 p 10 PY

[Text] The press office of the Interior Ministry released a list of persons arrested on charges of violating Law No 209, "Defense of Public Peace and Personal Liberty," who were freed during the past few days. The list includes the following: 1) Segundo Llerandi Ramirez, 2) Carlos Alberto Arestivo Bellasai, 3) Eulogia Falcon Escobar, 4) Roberto Martinez Cantero, 5) Jose Maria Olmedo Montania, 6) Juan Leonor Ovelar, 7) Pablo Lopez Britez, 8) Julio Cesar Colman Pintos, 9) Calixto Ramirez Sanchez, 10) Ananias Maidana Palacios, 11) Alfonso Silva Quintana, 12) Herminio Strumps Arevalos, 13) Bernardo Cardozo Gimenez, 14) Maria Lina Rodas, 15) Felipe Vera Baez, 16) Anastacio Martinez Britos, 17) Andres Florentin, 18) Miguel Almada, 19) Humberto Fulvio Rodriguez Gonzalez, 20) Ramon Anastacio Pena and 21) Aurelio Nomicio Rojas Caceres.

BRIEFS

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR CHIEF--Lt Gen Robert Harry Doherty Rogers, chief of the South African Air Force who is officially visiting Paraguay, met yesterday with President Stroessner. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Mar 78 p 12 PY]

NOTES EXCHANGED WITH BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS PUBLISHED

Presidential Messages

PA060318Y Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text of messages exchanged between President Francisco Morales Bermudez of Peru and President Hugo Banzer Suarez of Bolivia]

[Text] Bolivian President Hugo Banzer's message to Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez:

La Paz, 22 March 1978

Your Excellency Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez Cerrutti, president of the Republic of Peru, Lima:

I have the high honor of imforming you of the severing of diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of Chile. The Bolivian Foreign Affairs and Worship Ministry's report submitted to the foreign ministries of countries of the American continent indicated that the illustrious Peruvian Government had shown understanding during the course of the maritime negotiations. Unfortunately, they did not succeed despite all the efforts made by Bolivia, whose sole objective was to obtain a just solution to Bolivia's geographic problem and to contribute to the increasing friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries. I take this occasion to reiterate to your excellency my most distinguished consideration.

[Signed] General of Forces Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the Republic of Bolivia

Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez' reply to President Banzer's message:

Lima, 29 March 1978

Your Excellency General of Forces Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the Republic of Bolivia, La Paz:

I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of your friendly message of 22 March 1978, in which you informed me of the decision made by the armed forces revolutionary government with regard to the Chilean Government and in relation to Bolivia's landlock problem. I take the occasion to reiterate to Your Excellency my country's intention to continue contributing to the solution of Bolivia's just aspirations in accordance with existing international legal instruments and in harmony with the interests of the countries involved, so that we can contribute to the strengthening of peace and brotherhood among our countries.

Expressing my appreciation to Your Excellency for the terms employed in the note you sent me, I reiterate my highest and special consideration.

[Signed] Division Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez Cerrutti, president of the Republic of Peru

De la Puente Replies to Adriazola

PA042236Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1735 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 4 Apr (EFE)--Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente has reiterated to his Bolivian counterpart, Gen Oscar Adriazola, his country's support for a solution to Bolivia's landlocked situation.

In reply to a note from Adriazola, De la Puente states his hope "to find the formulas that will solve the situation in a spirit of peaceful coexistence." De la Puente's message was sent on 23 March but it was made public here only today.

The Peruvian foreign minister states that the solution to the landlocked problem must be sought "within the framework of existing legal instruments in order to satisfy the interests of the three countries involved and to guarantee permanent peace, development and integration."

In a message sent on 21 March, Adriazola noted that Chile's position had "definitely blocked any progress" in the search for a solution to the problem and regretted Chile's refusal to renew the dialog with Peru.

According to the 1929 treaty and its protocol, Peru must participate in any negotiation leading to the cession by Chile to Bolivia of any territory that prior to the 1879 war was Peruvaian. Referring to the Peruvian proposal of November 1976 for tripartite sovereignty over Arica, which would solve Bolivia's landlocked situation, Adriazola said that this is "an element that has been opened to discussion and therefore is negotiable."

Bolivia broke diplomatic relations with Chile on 17 March.

MORALES BERMUDEZ ASKS FOR PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE

PA311925Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1330 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 31 Mar (LATIN)--President Francisco Morales Bermudez has exhorted Peruvians to produce more with the fewer resources available "to overcome the difficult times our country is going through."

On the occasion of the 94th anniversary of military medicine day, the chief of state announced that this year and in coming years there will not be an excess of available resources, which means that "we are obligated to obtain more production with fewer available resources.

He noted that not only "must we know the technology and application of means currently available, but we must know how to care for them and strive professionally and morally to achieve the maximum output from them."

In the specific case of military medicine, Morales Bermudez asked personnel concerned to exercise care in the maintenance and use of their equipment to make it last as long as possible.

On the occasion of military medicine day, which was commemorated with a ceremony in the 9th Armored Division installations, Morales Bermudez was accompanied by Gen Oscar Molina, the prime minister, the war minister, the army commander and other ranking army officers.

NEW MILITARY CHIEF SWORN IN, DESCRIBES ROLE OF ESMACO

PY061941Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] The new head of the Joint General Staff has just been sworn in. Upon vacating his position, Rear Adm Francisco Sangurgo stated that the joint chiefs have never been indifferent, nor will they ever be, with respect to human rights. The new chief, Gen Julio Cesar Rapela, stated that the Joint General Staff [ESMACO] is in charge of studying everything related to the development of Uruguay, where there is a definitive objective. Regarding security, Rapela said that 90 percent of the task has already been achieved.

The ceremony was held at ESMACO headquarters and it was attended by the president and high-ranking military and civilian officials.

The new ESMACO chief was asked by "Informativo Shell" about what the new action of ESMACO will be within the institutional process the country is going through, considering that the various stages are being fulfilled according to schedule. He answered:

[begin Rapela recording] The main tasks of ESMACO are to establish standards, offer assistance and provide control in the fields of security and development.

Regarding security, I believe that ESMACO has fulfilled 90 percent of its task, since the situation of the country in this regard is well known.

Regarding development, we are going ahead, working hard and will probably continue achieving many goals. The direction has been given, and we will make our best effort to meet the goal. [end recording]

BRIEFS

HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL'S VISIT SUSPENDED--Sandor Udvardi, a Hungarian deputy minister for foreign trade, has been declared an official guest of the republic. He will arrive on 6 April and is expected to increase economic and trade relations between Uruguay and Hungary. [Text] [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY] For reasons of health Sandor Udvardi, Hungarian deputy minister for foreign trade, has suspended his visit to Uruguay. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 78 PY]

LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE--Uruguay will represent Latin America in negotiations seeking to achieve a solution to the presidential crisis of the Law of the Sea Conference. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 78 PY]

PEREZ PROPOSES JOINT PETROLEUM FRONT WITH MEXICO

PA061415Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0110 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Apr (LATIN)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez proposed a common front between Venezuela and Mexico to respond to pressures from transnational concerns on both petroleum-producing countries. The proposal was revealed in a newspaper interview published here today.

After denouncing "pressures by transnational concerns," Perez warned Mexico "not to fall for the wiles and maneuvers" of these corporations "seeking to confront us as rivals in the petroleum market." The Venezuelan president made these statements during an interview with EXCELSIOR and UNIVERSAL special correspondents sent to the Latin American Economic System [LAES] meeting in Caraballeda, Venezuela.

Venezuela and Mexico are the main Latin American petroleum producers. Therefore, Perez said, between the two countries "there must be mutual trust in order to respond to any situation."

Perez proposed to Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel, with whom he held a long interview at Miraflores Palace, the creation of a bilateral commission which "should not be composed of philosophers or legislators but of practical men" to propose concrete matters which can be carried out jointly by the two countries in the area of economics and in regard to cooperation on petroleum matters.

"Mexico and Venezuela will respond to the divisive tactics of the transnationals with a petroleum pact," President Andres Perez and Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel announced. "The pact will have as a goal the exchange of technological know-how and the establishment of cooperation programs to avoid the duplication of efforts, time and economic resources. It will also promote research designed to increase the aggregate value of hydrocarbons," said EL SOL correspondent Othon Hernandez.

Perez explained to Mexican newsmen that "Venezuela's reply to transnational pressures to reduce the price of petroleum was to produce and sell less during the first quarter of 1978 (by some 22 percent), in anticipation of the depletion of the large quantities of petroleum stored by these corporations for their 'price manipulating tactics.'" He said that the reduction of his country's petroleum production "does not worry us because the petroleum in the ground will increase in price," and added that "this strategy will have favorable results since at the beginning of this year Venezuela had sizeable petroleum inventories which slowed down the refining process."

President Perez, who proposed a 5- to 8-percent increase in OPEC prices to create a fund to help Third World countries, told Mexican newsmen, "I continue to promote this idea, which has been well received since it reminds the large nations of the world of their responsibility toward the poor countries." "I cannot see or accept the idea of OPEC's having a monopoly on the liberation of the Third World countries," he emphasized. He warned that the less assertiveness OPEC shows, the less the advances that will be made in North-South talks. This is fundamental.

"We have enough money from the petroleum we are currently selling. Even a 50,000- to 100,000-barrel drop in daily production would not affect us. We have even gone into debt because it is cheaper to pay interest and to allow petroleum to acquire more value in the ground."

Regarding progress by LAES which Mexico and Venezuela proposed to hasten regional integration, the president said that the two countries "should have greater identity in views in their efforts to make the system advance." He explained that he had exchanged ideas with Roel about the need to contribute "as much as possible" to carry out important and feasible projects by means of LAES. "It is a promising field of action which our two countries have before us and which we have not taken advantage of," Perez told the Mexican newsmen.

LEPAGE REAFFIRMS GOVERNMENT IMPARTIALITY IN ELECTIONS

PA061746Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] According to Interior Minister Dr Octavio Lepage, the national government will remain completely impartial during the current electoral campaign. The minister met with the secretaries general of the various political parties and explained to them the government's position regarding the campaign. The meeting was attended by the secretaries general of the Social Christian Party, Democratic Action, Movement for Socialism, Movement of the Revolutionary Left, People's Electoral Movement, Socialist Party of Venezuela and Democratic Republican Union.

Lepage said that the government's impartiality obliges all public officials, regardless of their ideologies, to abstain from participation in any of the parties' public activities.

The minister noted that this government position is perfectly well known but that, nonetheless, he wished to reaffirm it solemnly now that the electoral campaign that will culminate in the elections to be held in December is beginning.

GOVERNMENT BANS IMPORTATION OF LUXURY ITEMS

PA042359Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1529 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 4 Apr (LATIN)--According to a decree issued here today, the Venezuelan Government has banned the import of approximately 500 luxury items and expanded restrictions on imported cars which are not assembled in Venezuela.

The decree establishes an increase in tariffs for sheet steel, ingots and rods. The ban includes certain kinds of shoes, television sets, yachts, electric washers, stoves and curtain materials.

A few days ago the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Venezuela's most powerful business organization, cautioned that if the rate of imports was maintained, it could increase the drain in foreign exchange by more than $9 billion in 1978.

In another decree the government of Carlos Andres Perez increased import duties for 36 types of processed steel by an average of 36.75 percent and reserved import rights for the government-owned Orinoco Mining and Steel.

CHICAGO SUN TIMES REPORTS TORRIJOS LETTER TO CARTER

PA070038Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Chicago SUN TIMES reported today that Panama had informed the U.S. Government that an amendment introduced to the Panama Canal treaties by the U.S. Senate made these treaties unacceptable.

The Chicago newspaper reported that the Panamanian Government had sent protest notes to President Carter and the State Department regarding the amendment which gives the United States the unilateral right to intervene militarily in Panama to keep the canal open. The so-called DeConcini reservation was added to the neutrality treaty recently ratified by the U.S. Senate in order to obtain the two-thirds majority needed to ratify the treaty.

In an exclusive dispatch from Washington, the SUN TIMES reports that Panama has presented documents to the United Nations and that Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos has written to dozens of heads of state saying that the reservation violates the UN Charter as well as the OAS Charter. The SUN TIMES report quotes a presidential aide, who was not identified, as saying: I do not believe that the Panamanians are joking. The newspaper also quotes an unidentified Panamanian as saying: We are not going to sign a treaty in 1978 which would turn us into a protectorate and a colony.

The U.S. intelligence organization has warned that potentially violent demonstrations could begin in Panama against the DeConcini amendment, the Chicago SUN TIMES reports. The newspaper adds that White House officials are deeply concerned over future events. The Senate vote on the second treaty, the basic treaty returning the Canal Zone to Panama, has been scheduled for Tuesday, 18 April. This afternoon, the Panamanian Government refused to comment on the information we have just read.

Foreign Ministry Comments

PA070032Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2306 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Panama City, 6 Apr (LATIN)--The government is studying the amendments introduced to the Panama Canal neutrality treaty and is observing the events taking place in the U.S. Senate, but will issue a statement after the ratification, official sources said today.

The statements were made soon after a U.S. newspaper said that Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos had reportedly notified President Jimmy Carter that the pacts signed on 7 September would be rejected here.

"We have no knowledge of any letter from General Torrijos to President Carter," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "We are unaware of what this U.S. newspaper said," a spokesman for the government information office added.

ESCOBAR ANNOUNCES 'POPULAR CONSULTATION' ON TREATIES

PA071257Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1210 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[By Raul H. Riutor]

[Text] Panama City, 7 Apr (LATIN)--It was reported here today that the Panamanian Government will carry out a "popular consultation" once the U.S. Senate concludes the ratification process of the amended canal treaties.

Romulo Escobar, personal adviser to Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos and head of the Panamanian mission that negotiated the treaties which will replace the 1903 treaty, made this announcement at a meeting of the Panamanian Business Executives Association (APEDE).

Asked if that consultation would be broad, Escobar answered: "That popular consultation might be a new plebiscite."

On 23 October Panamanians approved the two treaties--the one on neutrality and the one on the canal itself--which General Torrijos and President Jimmy Carter signed in Washington on 7 September.

On 16 March the U.S. senators ratified the first document by a margin of only one vote. But before ratifying it, an amendment proposed by Arizona Senator Dennis DeConcini was introduced, which would permit the United States to intervene militarily after the year 2000 to defend the canal. Under the other treaty, the interoceanic waterway had to be ceded to Panama. [sentence as received]

Here, this situation has led to a number of statements against that reservation by political parties, lawyers, students and businessmen, who have been telling Torrijos that a document thus amended should be rejected.

Speaking in the presence of four political party leaders, Escobar stated: "We are glad to see that politicians realize that the United States is no piece of candy [caramelo]." He added: "If we reject the first treaty now, the senators could say: Why debate the second?" The U.S. Senate set 18 April as the date for voting on the canal treaty. The 26th of this month had been mentioned previously.

Escobar noted: "A popular consultation will determine if the reservations alter the spirit of the treaties." Escobar defended the government's decision of not stating its point of view until the Senate finishes debating the treaties and noted that any official statement made now could interrupt, delay or change the path of the Senate debates.

Escobar admitted during a dinner which continued until the early morning hours and which was attended by approximately 100 people in the El Panama Hotel that "there is great concern in the country for the future of Panama." He said that the problem of the treaties is a problem of the entire Panamanian nation. "The government will carry out a popular consultation before accepting the new treaties," he stated.

Ricardo Arias of the Christian Democratic Party asked him: "You are saying that there will be a popular consultation and not a plebiscite. Will a plebiscite be required or not?" Torrijos' close aide responded: "The popular consultation could become a plebiscite."

In a letter sent to Carter on 14 March [as received] Torrijos said: "Panama will find unacceptable any reservation offending our national dignity, changing the treaties' objectives or tending to prevent Panama's sovereignty over all of its territory, the relinquishing of the canal to Panama and military withdrawal prior to 31 December 1999."

Torrijos added that "the Panamanian people will not accept words, incorrectly placed commas or ambiguous phrases suggesting or expressing a perpetual occupation disguised as neutrality or intervention in its domestic affairs."

The National Liberation Party, which also participated on the panel with Escobar, yesterday sent a letter to the U.S. ambassador here, William Jorden, enclosing a manifesto recommending the rejection of the amendments, reservations, understandings and declarations introduced into the treaties by the Senate.

The Panamanist Party has just announced that also. Following a national survey it has concluded that the draft [as received] treaties worsen the present problems and create new conflicting relationships by committing Panamanian soil even further to the hegemonic interests of the United States.

The Movement of Independent Lawyers and the Federation of Panamanian Students expressed almost identical feelings in similar communiques.

Last night, Tomas Herrera of the Independent Democratic Movement [Movimiento Independiente Democratico] said that the Torrijos administration concluded the treaties' negotiation in a hurried manner and that the documents offend national dignity.

David Samudio, president of the Liberal Party, said that the U.S. senators exhibit colonialist pride and that his party simply cannot accept Senator DeConcini's amendment.

JOURNALISTS CONGRESS ISSUES STATEMENT ON CANAL TREATIES

PA061809Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Apr 78 pp 28, 67 PA

[Excerpt] The Fifth National Journalists Congress declared that "any amendment, reservation or understanding contrary to the accords contained in the treaties" on the Panama Canal "constitutes an offense to the nation's dignity." The congress issued a warning about the efforts being made by colonialist senators "to change the spirit of the treaties originally signed on 7 September 1977 by President Jimmy Carter and Panama's head of state Brig Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera."

The pronouncement made by about 150 Panamanian journalists, who participated in this past weekend's congress in Santiago, Veraguas, concerning the treaties being debated by the U.S. Senate, calls on "the Panamanian people to maintain a vigilant attitude of patriotic serenity in the face of these events" and sets forth the journalists' determination to "fight until the last vestige of imperialism is erased from the national territory."

Underlining the electoral "maneuvers" of some U.S. congressmen "to defeat the purpose of the pacts signed in Washington," the journalists congress points out that journalists "should act to consolidate the national unity and prevent another attempt to perpetuate colonialism and intervention throughout our national territory."

"It is worth noting that Panama has been denied the use of its primary natural resource by a superior force, and its possibilities for development and independence have been blocked by the existence of the Canal Zone and the presence of U.S. military forces supported by a treaty which no Panamanian signed," the document states in another paragraph of the resolution approved by the congress concerning the treaties.

LIBERAL PARTY REJECTS AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS

PA070433Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The National Liberal Party today rejected all amendments, reservations, understandings and declarations introduced by the U.S. Senate to the Panama Canal neutrality treaty because it considers that some of them distort the content of articles already agreed upon and that others offend Panama's sovereignty.

Party President David Samudio and members of the Liberal Party Political Committee signed a statement which was attached to a letter sent to William Jorden, U.S. ambassador in Panama. In this statement, the Liberals hold the United States responsible for the negative effects that would result from Panama's rejection of the understandings, reservations and amendments introduced by the U.S. Senate to the treaties.

The Liberals urged Ambassador Jorden to express their concern to the U.S. Government that it is logical to foresee that in the future resentment, frustration and even deceit [words indistinct] that the United States will be held responsible for wasting the opportunity of granting justice to a loyal and friendly people, of giving unquestionable proof of its anticolonialism and of projecting an image that permits the United States to exert pressure on other nations in the practice of and respect for human rights and in maintaining its prestige as a great world democracy, the Liberals conclude.

We will now read the Liberal Party statement, entitled: "Amendments, Reservations, Understandings and Declarations to the Panama Canal Permanent Neutrality Treaty."

Fellow citizens: The Liberal Party, in its declaration of 19 October 1977, after a detailed study of the text of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, recommended that an affirmative vote be given in the plebiscite as the party considered that although the treaties did not fully satisfy Panamanian aspirations and demands, they did have important solutions which had been demanded over a long period of time, put an end to the U.S. military presence in our territory and returned the canal, its installations, and so forth.

Moreover, the Liberal Party, which has extensive experience in the field of treaty negotiations with the United States, was aware of the fact that the contents of the treaties in question were the best that could be obtained. After the treaties were approved in the plebiscite, we were visited by many U.S. senators with whom we discussed the contents of the articles of the treaties and to whom we stressed the need to have them approved by the U.S. Senate. During the meetings, certain senators expressed their intention of introducing amendments to the articles. The position of the Liberal Party is explicit and definitive in the sense that for the Panamanians any modifications or additions to the text already signed would be unacceptable as we were aware that this would in many ways distort the content of what was already agreed upon and that it was logical to assume that the amendments would, in any case, not be favorable to our country.

The Liberal Party, in the Samudio declaration of 14 January 1978, was emphatic in stating that it could not accept modifications, amendments and reservations to the text of the treaties for the aforementioned reasons. The Liberal Party issued this declaration because it was already known that certain senators were preparing to introduce modifications which were damaging and unacceptable to the interests of Panama. The fact is that amendments, reservations, understandings and new matters were introduced during the neutrality treaty debates which distort the articles that were already agreed upon. Among them are the DeConcini and Nunn reservations, which in addition to contradicting the content of the articles they attempt to clarify, are offensive to the sovereign dignity of Panama, the Liberal Party statement adds.

For the aforementioned reasons, the Liberal Party, which on 19 October 1977 expressed support for the Torrijos-Carter treaties and which stressed the need for Senate approval to the U.S. senators, today expresses its rejection of the amendments, reservations, understandings and new matters introduced to the neutrality treaty because some of them are contrary to the articles already agreed upon and others are damaging to the dignity of our fatherland.

The declaration is signed by David Samudio A., president; Jaoquin F. Franco, vice president; and by Political Committee members Guillermo E. Quijano, Roderick Esquivel, Jorge R. Rivas, Arnulfo Escalona R., Adolfo Icaza, Oscar Ucroz, Jaime Ortega, Jose A. Arango and Secretary General Julio Harris.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY REJECTS AMENDED TREATY

PA070122Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The ratification of the neutrality pact with its attached amendments, reservations and understandings makes it a new treaty subject to later negotiations, approval and signature by the executive, said the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] in a communique issued here today.

As a major cause for conflict, the PDC notes the right of unilateral military intervention in our national territory--allowing, after 1999, U.S. interference in our sovereign rights regarding the canal and the unusual extension of the neutrality concept to any other waterway built in Panama.

The PDC also states that in ratifying this pact, the U.S. senators have made more acute the causes for conflict between the two countries. Therefore, the PDC communique continues, it believes that in introducing the understandings, amendments and reservations to the treaty ratified last 16 March, the U.S. senators agreed only in rejecting the treaties negotiated by Panama and approved in a plebiscite last 23 October.

The PDC communique concludes by saying that the national government should consider the treaties unacceptable to our national honor and believes that even presenting the amendments to a plebiscite would be offensive to Panama's historical struggle.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES TORRIJOS' TRIP TO PERU

PA061830Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] At noon today the Panamanian Foreign Ministry denied that Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera had left for Lima today. A local radio station reported this morning that General Torrijos had left for Peru to report to General Morales Bermudez' government on the troublesome and difficult process of ratification of the new treaties.

Foreign Ministry sources told this station that the chief of government is in Coclesito.

FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS MEET

PA061430Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Col Roberto Palma Galvez will return to the country on Saturday after heading the official delegation that attended the ceremonies to install Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero in office as mediator of the peace talks to resolve the Honduran-Salvadoran dispute.

Reports received by our reporter from Lima indicate that since last Tuesday several working sessions have been held between the foreign ministers of El Salvador and Honduras, together with their respective delegations, to analyze aspects of the future negotiating process. According to the reports, one of the main subjects discussed by the foreign ministers of the two disputing countries is the document of agreement on principles which will almost certainly be presented to the mediator for his consideration.

Reports received by our press department from the Peruvian capital indicate that the two foreign ministers are meeting privately in one of the main hotels in Lima in an attempt to work out the basic theses of the document which they will present jointly, in two copies, to the mediator on 3 May. The reports indicate that both Palma Galvez and Alvaro Ernesto Martinez will be in constant contact with mediator Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero to report on their discussions, which began on Tuesday.

One of the articles of the mediation agreement establishes a 30-day deadline, beginning on the date that mediation is initiated, for the two countries to present a joint report in duplicate on progress--the failures and achievements--of the negotiations which have been underway between them since July 1969.

EL SALVADOR

ARCHBISHOP ISSUES BULLETIN ON RECENT DISTURBANCES

PA061630Y San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 30 Mar 78 pp 2, 50 PA

[Bulletin issued by the archbishopric of San Salvador: "On Events in San Pedro Perulapan and Other Matters"--date not given]

[Excerpt] 1. To date, the archbishopric has received many statements from residents of the La Esperanza, El Rodeo, Tecoluco and San Pedro Perulapan districts. Most of them contradict the reports published in the newspapers.

2. It seems to us that the newspapers and the radio are reporting only the accounts provided by the groups of the Nationalist Democratic Organization [ORDEN] or the official government account. The accused have not been permitted to express themselves freely. They have the right to do so. As long as this right is not granted to them, the news reports will be biased and of questionable veracity.

3. For the time being, the version which we consider most accurate is the following:

On Monday of Holy Week, some 40 members of ORDEN captured Transito Vasquez, a resident of La Esperanza.

The next day his body was found with the throat cut and with signs of having been tortured. On that day there was a confrontation between members of ORDEN and of the Salvadoran Christian Peasant Federation-Farm Workers Union (FECCAS-UTC) in which several persons were injured.

On Ash Wednesday members of the FECCAS-UTC recovered the body and held a wake at the La Esperanza Hermitage. In addition they captured five members of ORDEN. They forced three of them to dig the grave and to ask the corpse for forgiveness, then released the five ORDEN members the following day. During the wake a helicopter fired on the hermitage and flew very low over it throughout the wake.

During that period there were several confrontations that resulted in an unknown number of deaths and injuries on both sides.

The relatives of the members of ORDEN, on orders from the leadership, went to the San Pedro Perulapan school for protection from stonings, but apparently, mainly to be able to carry out this biased campaign against FECCAS-UTC.

The relatives of the FECCAS-UTC members also fled from their homes for protection from the attacks from members of ORDEN and to avoid having the security corps carry out a military operation to kill them, as has been occurring on other occasions.

Since Holy Thursday several truckloads of guardsmen have come to San Pedro Perulapan and arrested over 40 members of FECCAS-UTC.

4. In view of this alarming situation, the archbishop urgently summoned the following: the director of the Catholic relief service; the pastor of the Adventist Church (Miramontes); the pastor of the Anglican Church; the pastor of the Emmanuel Church; Dr Eugenia de Munoz; the United Nations [as published]; Mr Ricardo Lopez, president of the Salvadoran Red Cross; Mrs Roser C. de Estevez, president of the doctors wives club; the Women's Beneficent Association; the Salvadoran Women's Front; the Salvadoran Bar Association; the director of Caritas of San Salvador, and Victor Manuel Solorzano.

They were invited to take part in a committee that would go to the scene of events for the following purposes:

A. To determine what really happened;

B. To disseminate this truth, expressing a moral judgment on those reponsible;

C. To determine the immediate needs of the families which have fled from their homes and are not only in the San Pedro Perulapan school, but also hidden in the bush and have been sleeping in the open;

D. To organize a way to give aid to all of them in accordance with their needs and the resources available to the committee.

GUATEMALA

SEARCH FOR RIGHTIST GUERRILLAS BEGINS ALONG BORDER

PA062202Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Special security forces have begun a search for the armed groups presumably operating near the border with Honduras and which possibly have even penetrated the neighboring country's territory while carrying out their activities. Air units will aid the security force commandos in locating and destroying the clandestine camps, said to be sheltering mercenaries intent on invading Guatemalan territory and creating problems for General Laugerud Garcia's legally constituted government. These bands of unidentified men, which have been described as clandestine extreme right groups, will be fought energetically.

In Guatemala it is understood that the Honduran Government has stationed troops along the border to prevent the mobilization of groups which reportedly are operating along the border between the two countries. According to the government, it has the necessary resources to locate and destroy these subversive groups, and this will be accomplished as soon as possible.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT MINISTER REFUTES BRIBERY CHARGES

PA061325Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2310 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 5 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Government Minister Lt Col Juan Angel Arias today denied having received any payment from the U.S. banana company the Standard Fruit Company, as was asserted yesterday by another army officer. "I have never received a penny from that banana company," Arias said, "but I was present when the transnational corporation made payments to two chiefs of military detachments of the northern coast," he added.

Yesterday Lt Col Gustavo Alvarez, chief of the army's 4th Battalion headquartered in the northern port of La Ceiba, affirmed that Arias had received monthly payments of more than $5,000 from the banana company.

After denying the accusations made by his colleague Alvarez, Lt Col Juan Angel Arias said that his only connection with the banana company was that of operational control over the security personnel of the U.S. company.

NICARAGUA

COMMISSION APPOINTED TO REVIEW CHAMORRO CASE

PA070218Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2022 GMT 6 Par 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 6 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government today appointed a seven-member commission "with broad powers" to review the hearing held on the murder of opposition journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, which occurred in this capital on 10 January.

Government Minister Jose Antonio Mora Rostran revealed the appointment of the commission today at a press conference in the national palace. According to the government minister, the commission is made up of citizens with great intellectual and moral abilities who are members of the government, the Catholic Church, the private sector, the legal profession and national journalism.

The commission is headed by the government minister himself. In addition it includes Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua; Alfonso Robelo, leader of the opposition businessmen; lawyers Ramiro Granera and Idelfonso Palama Martinez; members of the ruling Liberal Party; Rodolfo Abaunza Salinas, freelance journalist; and lawyer Felix Esteban Guandique of renowned ability and impartiality.

According to the appointment made by the executive branch, the special commission must meet to examine and analyze the hearing conducted by judge Guillermo Rivas "to determine the guilty parties in the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro." The commission will also "obtain by other means the necessary evidence and make suggestions to the public prosecutor on measures which it may consider relevant. It was reported that the commission will have the full support of the executive branch officials to accomplish its mission.

The minister said that the members of the commission would be notified of their appointments today and expressed optimism regarding the acceptance of such a responsibility by the members of the commission. He stressed that the creation of the commission was "a government effort to contribute to the continued prevalence of justice in Nicaragua, with complete independence and as an answer to popular demands regarding the case."

As a result of the hearing held on Chamorro's death--an incident which unleashed a wave of popular violence from which the country has not been able to recover--the judge entrusted with the case issued six arrest warrants against five material authors and the intellectual author, the Cuban naturalized U.S. citizen Pedro Ramos Quiroz, who is a resident of Miami, Florida. Regarding the status of the Cuban-U.S. citizen, who is one of the owners of the human blood export firm "Plasmafersis," which was burned here by demonstrators in January, the U.S. Government said that in principle it would consent to the extradition of Ramos Quiroz. However, the judge entrusted with the case has not yet requested the extradition through the appropriate channels.

OPPOSITION DEBATING POSSIBLE TALKS WITH SOMOZA

PA070215Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0145 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 6 Apr (AFP)--The opponents of Gen Anastasio Somoza's government today publicly discussed whether it was appropriate to hold talks with the president or to maintain a rigid position against him. The debate originated with a statement from Somoza himself, who last Wednesday said that he would agree to various demands from the opposition under the condition of "prior talks."

One of the strong points of that dialog is acceptance that "no member of the Somoza family" can become a candidate in the 1981 presidential elections. Another of the key demands of Somoza's opponents is that none of his relatives be appointed chief of the army. Luis Pasos, leader of the opposition Conservative Party, said that it is "urgent" to force the president to promise that the 1981 elections will be "clean" and that this cannot be attained "only through dialog."

Meanwhile, Ramiro Sacasa, leader of the dissident fraction of the Liberal Party (in power), also favors talks with Somoza, whereas Rafael Cordoba, president of the Democratic Liberation Union, labeled them as "useless."

COMMENTARY SCORES U.S. PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMB

FL061346Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants political information program commentary]

[Text] The criminal nature of North American imperialism has been demonstrated over and over again throughout history. Besides its aggression and intervention committed all over the world, the fatal decision to drop atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and the beginning of thermonuclear bomb production in 1950 are examples which show its homicidal disposition against humanity.

Presently, deaf to world outcries to end the arms race, the Washington government is proposing manufacture of the neutron bomb, infecting Europe with it. The development and improvement of new types of mass extermination weapons to endanger world peace, torpedo detente and maintain a climate of tension is one of the most notable characteristics of those who say they are the champions of human rights. The neutron bomb is the latest example of the North American warmongers, and with it, imperialism is trying to blackmail humanity in the face of the impossibility of indiscriminate use of nuclear weapons. The plans to manufacture the neutron bomb were thought up by Samuel Cohen, physicist at the North American enterprise Rand Corporation. The device kills human beings while causing little damage to buildings and equipment, although these are contaminated by radiation.

North American military circles argue that this new weapon allows their troops to occupy bombed territory with all their material resources, that the explosion is controlled and that it is cheaper to manufacture than thermonuclear types. The apologists of this mass destruction weapon defend it, alleging that it is more humane than the atomic bomb. They are reluctant to recognize that the weapon accelerates the arms race and increases the risks of nuclear war.

The Pentagon has carried out tests exposing apes to neutron radiation. They died a few minutes later, suffering greatly. Nevertheless, the imperialists are determined to defend the "most humane" character of the neutron bomb. Despite worldwide protests against the manufacture and deployment of neutron weapons, one of the plants where the bomb will be mass produced is in operation. It is located in Rock Flats, Colorado.

Neutron bomb supporters propose to use this weapon as a means of exerting pressure on the Soviet Union and the socialist community at the Geneva and Vienna disarmament talks. In a letter to the North American President, Soviet scientists have stated that if the United States deploys the neutron bomb, its monopoly on this weapon will be very brief.

The USSR has the scientific and technical development and sufficient resources so that its armed forces, with the means necessary, can guarantee the defense of the fatherland and socialism. The Soviet people, along with their brothers in the socialist community and the revolutionary and progressive forces of the world will continue the struggle for detente and disarmament, as the path to guaranteeing peace on the planet. Imperialism is attempting to accentuate the threat to world peace with the neutron bomb. It should be reminded that history has shown that he who stokes the fires of war burns his hands or becomes ashes.

HAVANA ON FAILURE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S TOUR

FL070235Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] On 28 March U.S. President Jimmy Carter began a tour which included visits to Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria and Liberia, ending on 3 April when he returned to Washington. A North American daily, in an effort to define the results of the tour in one sentence, stated that Carter had returned to the United States with empty pockets.

We do not believe that such generalized definition is correct, even though it looks as if the most important objectives sought by the North American President were not fully achieved. The visits to Venezuela and Brazil may have achieved some results, but he was unsuccessful in the suggestion he made to Venezuela that it not endorse OPEC decisions affecting North American interests. A member of Carter's entourage said prior to departure from Caracas that the price of oil had not been discussed because the positions of the two governments differ on that point, which is not mentioned in the final joint communique. [as heard] Carter called Venezuela a U.S. ally, and the final communique reveals unity of opinion of the two governments with respect to their positions on African and Middle East problems and the policy of disarmament.

Upon arriving in Brazil, Carter reiterated the role of world leadership played by that country in the strategy of imperialism. The North American President stated that his country and Brazil share world responsibilities and reaffirmed the validity of the memorandum of understanding signed in 1976 by the then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger with the military regime. Since 1964, when the military assumed power in Brazil, North American investments there have registered a fivefold increase, and by 1975 Brazil had become the top Latin American recipient of those investments. The differences with the United States in connection with the Brazil-FRG nuclear accord are not mentioned in the final communique. That accord provides for the installation of eight nuclear powerplants in Brazil and some processing plants. North American interests have been affected by the accord since their exports of nuclear equipment have diminished and today are a tenth what they were in 1973.

Another topic of interest to the two countries is the so-called Amazon Pact, which favors Brazil's influence over Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela and which would give it access to the fabulous wealth of the Amazon region, where enormous investments are required that cannot be solely assumed by Brazil. The importance of this pact is enormous since it constitutes a means for Brazil to attain political and economic superiority in South America, opening markets needed for Brazilian development and access to Venezuela's, Peru's and Eduador's petroleum. In reality, as stated by the North American President himself, U.S. and Brazilian common objectives greatly surpass any differences that could exist between them.

In the African portion of Carter's tour, the events were not so bright. The main objective of reconciling positions with respect to the problems of South Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia and Africa in general, by attracting the frontline countries--Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana--to positions closer to those of the United States, cannot be said to have been achieved. In Lagos Nigerian chief of government Olusegun Obasanjo asked Carter to adopt an economic boycott against the South African racist regime. In the final communique Nigerian support for the combatants of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and respect for the borders recognized by African countries is expressed.

On a previous visit North American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was not able to reach agreement with Zambia and Botswana to achieve support for U.S. viewpoints on the continent. From all indications, the will for independence of the majority of African countries cannot be easily reconciled with U.S. viewpoints. The United States accepts the premise of liberation for Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa and, to a certain degree, an end to white supremacy, but tries to control the results of that struggle by attempting to save as much as possible of the economic interests of the large capitalist corporations. On another issue, oil, Nigeria, like Venezuela, is proposing new price increases.

In the final part of the tour, Carter stopped in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. The very brief stopover was marked by a welcoming ceremony that made the North American head of state feel at home. The honor guard wore uniforms similar to those of North American soldiers. In addition, Liberia's paper currency is almost identical to U.S. dollars. Despite all this, the government's daily NEW LIBERIAN deplored that the United States only vaguely remembers the existence of Liberia, and opined that the Washington government should give greater support to the African liberation movements if it wants to make its statements of support a reality and if it wants to maintain the privileged relations that have existed between Liberia and the United States for 131 years.

Summing up, Carter's trip brought to light the increasing contradictions between what the African peoples want for themselves and what the United States wants for the African peoples.

MALMIERCA RETURNS FROM OVERSEAS TRIP

FL061901Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister and PCC Central Committee member, arrived in our country this morning following a tour of several African and European countries. Raul Roa, national assembly vice president and Central Committee member, Vice Foreign Minister Rene Anillo, Foreign Ministry officials and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba were at the airport.

Referring to his trip, the foreign minister told the national television news program:

[begin Malmierca recording] We hope that the trip has been very positive in terms of the objectives we set up on the one hand, to strengthen bilateral ties with the several countries we visited, and also to participate in the activities of the nonalined movement, in which Cuba plays an important role--not only in the preparations for the summit conference, the sixth summit conference to be held in Havana next year--but also in activities of regular meetings of the movement which will be held this year in Kabul and Belgrade. [end recording]

ANGOLAN DELEGATION VISITS FMC HEADQUARTERS

FL062326Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2247 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] A delegation of the Angolan women's organization headed by its national coordinator, Maria Carlos, today visited the headquarters of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] in Havana city. The delegation also includes (Lucia Pain), Julio da Souza and Maria Elena Souza, leaders of the Angolan women's organization in various provinces of the fraternal African country.

During the meeting with members of the FMC provincial secretariat, Lina Rosa Morales, secretary general ad interim, explained to the visitors the organization's structure and ongoing tasks as well as the broad participation of FMC members in all fronts of revolutionary work.

For their part, the Angolan leaders pointed out the outstanding role played by their country's women in the struggle for total independence of the country and the main tasks they are currently tackling.

MENGISTU RETURNS HOME FROM VISIT TO USSR

FL062250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2232 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian chief of state Mengistu Haile Mariam arrived today in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, following a working visit to the USSR which he termed useful and beneficial. The chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Committee of Ethiopia told newsmen that he had exchanged viewpoints on various problems with USSR Supreme Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and Council of Ministers Chairman Aleksey Kosygin.

The main objectives of my visit, Mengistu stated, were the development of the Ethiopian revolution, the situation in the region and the strengthening of relations between the peoples and governments of Ethiopia and the Soviet Union. The Ethiopian president added that the talks were characterized by a spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie.

Several members of the Ethiopian Government accompanied Mengistu in his visit to the USSR.

CUBA, USSR SIGN 1-YEAR PROTOCOL ON TRADE

FL062358Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2302 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Cuba and the Soviet Union today signed in Moscow a 1-year protocol on trade, the most important one in the history of economic relations between the two countries. The document was signed by Cuban Deputy Foreign Trade Minister German Amado Blanco and his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Kuzmin, who pointed out the importance of the commitments agreed to in the bilateral supply of goods during the current year.

In 1968 the total value of trade between Cuba and the Soviet Union amounted to just 800 million rubles. This year the total amount will be over 4 billion rubles, Kuzmin stated in his speech. The Soviet deputy foreign trade minister pointed out that the deliveries for the first 3 months of this year were successfully fulfilled. He also stressed the importance of the increased strengthening of trade relations and cooperation.

For his part, Cuban Deputy Foreign Trade Minister German Amado Blanco announced that by 1979 and 1980 higher amounts in trade and cooperation are anticipated. The Cuban official stated that the 1978 agreement includes new articles which will contribute to increasing the variety of goods. He also pointed out that among goods to be supplied to Cuba are the powerful MCZ80 tractors and a large-tonnage freighter for dry cargo as well as equipment for the sugar industry.

CUBAN, SOVIET SPECIALISTS HOLD MEETING IN MOA

FL061445Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1332 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] At an activity held at the support base under construction in MOA, Cuban and Soviet specialists and workers have decided to transform Moa into a proletarian internationalist monument.

The activity was held on the occasion of the visit to the area by a delegation headed by (Ivan Pavlovich Diatrov), deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee construction department. The distinguished visitor spoke of his impressions of mining-metallurgical development in Moa as a result of touring the main projects under construction in the area. He stated that Cuba itself is a total construction project and praised the efforts undertaken in the country to raise the level of work quality and organization.

At the event on the occasion of the visit by the CPSU delegation to Moa, provincial party member (Manuel Cordovi Moreno) stated that Holguin has important projects demonstrating the USSR's internationalist solidarity. After citing the development of Moa and Nicaro, he referred to other projects, among them the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution plant in the capital of Holguin, which he said this year will build 300 sugarcane harvesters. He said the province will fulfill its sugarcane harvest pledges and all tasks related to mining development, among others.

(Lazaro Hernandez), secretary general of the trade union committee at the support base, also spoke. He reiterated the workers' determination to convert difficulties into incentives to give greater support for the projects in Moa.

NONALINED REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET IN HAVANA

FL061958Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1927 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Ministerial-level delegations from 15 nonalined countries will meet in Havana from 17 to 20 April to discuss matters dealing with decolonization of mass information media, among many other topics. The meeting will be the second of the intergovernmental council for coordination of information on nonalined movement.

During the meeting the Cuban delegation will report on preparations for the sixth summit conference of chiefs of state and government of nonalined countries to be held in Havana in the second half of 1979. One important topic on the agenda is the establishment of cooperation ties with UNESCO and other international organizations.

PINEIRO LOSADA RECEIVES CHILEAN COMMUNIST DELEGATION

FL061740Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Manuel Pineiro Losada, PCC Central Committee member and chief of its America Department, has received the Chilean Communist Party delegation headed by Volodia Teitelboim, member of its Political Committee. They were also received by (Julieta Campusano), other leaders, Chilean Communist Party members, and (Ramon Perdomo) and (Pedro Sambrano), section chief and official of the PCC Central Committee America Department. Volodia Teitelboim and the delegation he heads are visiting Cuba at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee.

PEDRO MIRET ADDRESSES HEALTH WORKERS MEETING

FL070038Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Lucia Gonzalez telephone report]

[Text] PCC Politburo member Pedro Miret is making the closing remarks at the national plenary session on emulation of the Health Workers National Trade Union, which is being held at the Camilo Cienfuegos hall of the Public Health Ministry.

Others in the presidium are PCC Central Committee members Flavio Bravo and Oscar Fernandez Mell and alternate members Dr Jose Gutierrez Muniz, minister of public of health, and Rosario Fernandez, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers National Secretariat.

Dr Adolfo Valdivia, secretary general of the Health Workers National Trade Union, read the report on the results of the first phase of the 11th festival emulation in this sector. Immediately afterward, awards were presented to 14 outstanding workers and to representatives of medical centers which recorded the best work in the country last year. Among the most outstanding centers are the Frank Pais orthopedic hospital, Cerro and Centro Habana pediatric centers, Sagua la Grande surgical clinic and Sancti Spiritus gynecological center. The special award for exemplary hospitals was presented to Dr Bernabe Ordas, director of Havana's psychiatric hospital and national work hero, in recognition of the efforts of the center, which has been selected most outstanding nationally for 3 consecutive years.

BRIEFS

ESPIN MEETS BENIN WOMEN--Vilma Espin, PCC Central Committee member and Cuban Women's Federation [FMC] president, has received a delegation from the People's Republic of Benin women's organizing committee which is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the FMC. Dora Carcano, PCC Central Committee alternate member and FMC secretary general, and other leaders also attended the meeting at the FMC national directorate headquarters. The visitors from the fraternal African country will be in our country for several days to learn about the Cuban women's role in the various areas of social, economic and political life. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1334 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL]

NEW PROVINCIAL ATTORNEY GENERAL--The attorney general of the republic has issued a decree naming Jesus Paulo Garcia Simon as the new Havana City Province attorney general. Garcia Simon leaves the post of National Revolutionary Police deputy chief. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1514 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL]

SPANISH-BUILT SHIPS--Spanish shipyards are completing two new refrigerated trawler factory ships, the Rio Yateras and the Rio Mayari, for the Cuban fishing fleet as part of the revolutionary government's plan to expand fishing. Their principal dimensions are: 106.85 meters long, 14.5 meters wide, 3,250 deadweight tons, and total refrigerated volume of 3,130 cubic meters. Their main engine has 4,000 horsepower with a top speed of over 15 knots, with each ship having a range of 3,000 miles and 55 days of fishing. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1708 GMT 3 Apr 78 FL]

BELGIAN DELEGATION--The Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples--ICAP--has hosted a farewell ceremony at its headquarters for Senator (Willy Kallenwauf), Belgian Socialist Party Politburo member and Belgian-Cuban Interparliamentary Committee chairman, and the delegation he heads. The Belgian delegation has visited economic, cultural and social sites and met with mass organizations and university centers in several provinces of the country. During its stay in Cuba, the Belgian delegation was briefed on the development in our country of education, the economy, peoples government, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and other topics. A Belgian women's delegation which is visiting Cuba also attended the ICAP ceremony. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1339 GMT 6 Apr 78 FL]

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